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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,702	01/29/2004	Dennis W. Sanford	60996	5646

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EXAMINER

ABBOTT, YVONNE RENEE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3644

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/767,702

Applicant(s)

SANFORD ET AL.

Examiner

Yvonne R. Abbott

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/29/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 11, line 2, "said center front panel" and in line 6, "said first and second front panels" lack prior antecedent bases. It appears that this claim should depend from claim 3 instead of claim 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Branting (6,439,639). Branting shows an apparatus capable of use as a dog kennel for use with a truck cap mounted atop a pickup truck bed having a pair of opposed side rails, said dog kennel comprising: floor panels (28) including a first floor panel connected to a second floor panel for pivotal movement relative thereto, said first and second floor panels being movable between a planar extended configuration and a folded storage configuration; and a first side support bracket (60) attached to a free end of said first floor panel and a second side support bracket attached to a free end of

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said second floor panel for supporting said first and second floor panels, respectively, atop the side rails of the truck when said first and second floor panels are at said extended configuration; and further comprising a center floor panel (16) situated intermediate said first and second floor panels for displacing said first and second floor panels from one another and defining a horizontal axis, said first and second floor panels being pivotally coupled to said center floor panel and movable about said horizontal axis.

4. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ferrelle (2,067,661). Ferrelle shows an apparatus capable of use as a dog kennel for use with a truck cap mounted atop a pickup truck bed having a pair of opposed side rails, said dog kennel comprising: floor panels (10) including a first floor panel connected to a second floor panel for pivotal movement relative thereto, said first and second floor panels being movable between a planar extended configuration and a folded storage configuration; and a first side support bracket (14) attached to a free end of said first floor panel and a second side support bracket attached to a free end of said second floor panel for supporting said first and second floor panels, respectively, atop the side rails of the truck when said first and second floor panels are at said extended configuration.

5. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mace (3,063,064). Mace shows an apparatus capable of use as a dog kennel for use with a truck cap mounted atop a pickup truck bed having a pair of opposed side rails, said dog

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kennel comprising: floor panels (10,11) including a first floor panel connected to a second floor panel for pivotal movement relative thereto, said first and second floor panels being movable between a planar extended configuration and a folded storage configuration; and a first side support bracket (21) attached to a free end of said first floor panel and a second side support bracket attached to a free end of said second floor panel for supporting said first and second floor panels, respectively, atop the side rails of the truck when said first and second floor panels are at said extended configuration.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3-10 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

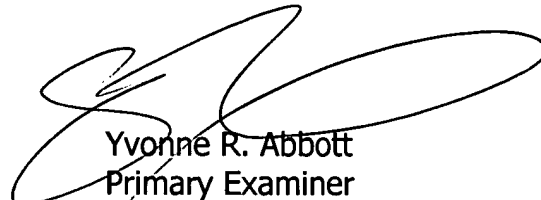
7. Claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. Claims 12-20 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yvonne R. Abbott whose telephone number is (571) 272-6896. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 9:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on (571) 272-7045. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Yvonne R. Abbott
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3644

4/15/05